

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"May God help us to follow the teaching and example of our Mothers, who are true Latter-day Saints, and there will be an eternity of joy and an exaltation in store for each and every one of us."—PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT.

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THE CHARACTER OF SATAN

PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

DURING the sessions of this conference, various of those who have addressed us have referred to a convention of Protestant ministers recently held in Chicago. The report of that meeting indicates that a majority of them are said to have not believed in a heaven or a hell or a devil. That may sound extremely Godless to us, but after all I fancy I see in it a ray of hope. These men speak of heaven and of hell and of the devil as they have been taught to understand those things, a heaven inhabited by ethereal beings, wafting their way from place to place, without knowledge of the past or hope of the future, who surround the throne of a God without body, parts or passions, and sing anthems and play harps throughout eternity; a hell which is a lake of burning brimstone and of a devil who goes around with a pitchfork looking for victims to pitch into it, where they are to remain forever burning, but never consumed. This doctrine never has appealed to me. It seems rather hopeful to me that men professing to be the teachers of the doctrine of Christ are getting away from those things.

As an introduction to what I would like to say I want to read from the twelfth chapter of the Revelation of St. John, seventh verse :

And there was war in heaven : Michael and his angels fought against the dragon ; and the dragon fought and his angels,

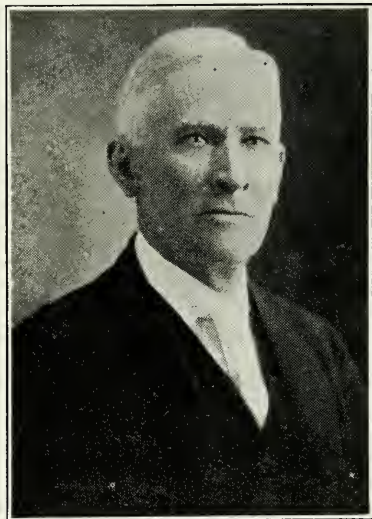
And prevailed not ; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world ; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

In the Bible the word devil is used interchangeably with Satan,

the tempter, Beelzebub, the prince of this world, the old serpent—all of which appellations refer to the same personage.

The word devil is a contraction from the Greek word "diabolus," which interpreted means a malicious accuser, or demon, and is equivalent to the Hebrew word Satan, an enemy or adversary.



ANTHONY W. IVINS

The Scripture which I quoted at the beginning of my remarks, and the context to which your attention is called, teach us that this personage to whom we commonly refer as the devil was Lucifer, a son of the morning, an angel in authority, who rebelled against the Father and the Son, because of which he was cast down to earth with those who followed after him, and became Perdition, the lost one over whom the heavens wept. Jesus, referring to his fall, says: "I saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

Wherever mentioned in the Scriptures, the devil is referred to as the tempter, the deceiver, the author of lies, the enemy of God, and the opposer of all that is good, but at the same time so adroit that the falsehoods which he utters appear to be truth. He may even appear as an

angel of light.

Shakespeare understood this characteristic of the evil one when he makes Banquo say to Macbeth:

The earth hath bubbles as the water has and these are of them, but 'tis strange, and oftentimes to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles to betray us in deepest consequence.

How similar are these words of Shakespeare to the Scripture which tells us that some of us he bribes with profit, and others he allures with pleasures which appear innocent in themselves, but lead us on to transgression, which is his sole desire. His great effort is to rob God of His glory and men of their souls.

More than three hundred years ago, John Milton, referring to Satan, said: "He it was whose guile, stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived the mother of mankind."

Milton pictures Satan in human form with a serpent with dripping fangs and forked tongue coiled about his feet.

The Scriptures contain many references to his subtle power. His malice is deadly. His activity and diligence are equal to his malice. He has a legion of those who fell with him, and have sold their souls to him to assist in carrying out his designs.

In His parable of the sower, explaining its meaning, Jesus says that the seed sown is the word of God. Those by the wayside

are they who hear. Then cometh the devil and taketh away the word from their hearts lest they believe and are saved.

The devil entered into the heart of Judas and prompted him to betray the son of God to those who were responsible for His death.

The Apostle Peter warns us to be constantly vigilant because, he says, our enemy, the devil, as a roaring lion is seeking whom he may devour.

From the time of his fall, Lucifer has sought to establish and maintain dominion over the earth and those who dwell upon it, and with a few exceptions and for brief periods only he has been successful.

It was his power that interrupted and temporarily prevented the full fruition of the mission of the Saviour in the meridian of time. His triumph, however, was only temporary. Knowing that his dominion over the people of the earth is to be broken, and that certain defeat awaits him, he arrays himself in the livery of Christ, and masquerading as His representative, in the words of Shakespeare, wins the hearts of men by honest trifles which are true, while he betrays them, and leads them away to deepest consequences.

The character and mission of Satan are illustrated in the story in which he appears to our Mother Eve, and by flattery and deception persuades her to disregard the command of God and partake of the forbidden fruit, declaring to her that she should not die, but become wise. She partakes and brings the heritage of death to her posterity. He thus proves that he is a deceiver and falsifier.

The character of Satan has been so powerfully manifested among men that in many countries he has been made an object of worship. It was through the serpent that he appeared to our mother Eve, and from that time to the present the serpent has been the symbol of the devil among those who worshipped him.

ZOROASTER, who is referred to in history as a great philosopher or legislator, who some students say lived 6000 B.C., while others place his death 500 B.C., was of Bactrian extraction, an ancient people of Asia. He was the founder of the Zoroastrian or Zarathustrian religion.

According to Edward B. Taylor, LL.D., F.R.S., in his book, *Ancient Faiths and Modern Religions*, the predominant idea in the teachings of Zoroaster was the existence of two spirits or governing powers, one of which constantly seeks to accomplish good, while the other strives to accomplish evil. The first of these powers is represented as light, life, law, order, and truth—all that is good and pure.

The other power is his antithesis—he is darkness, filth, lawlessness, all that is evil in the world, he is Satan, he is death. Taylor says of this people: "While recognizing the good spirit, they give their chief reverence to Satan, chief of the angelic hosts, who now has power to afflict mankind. Will not Satan then after death reward the Izedis, who have served him during their mortal lives?"

Only a few days ago a dispatch was published in the *Salt Lake Tribune* from Kurdistan, in Asia, referring to worship of the devil by these people.

Where devil worship is practised the serpent is always his symbol, and exorcism is resorted to in order that he may be placated, and his anger abated.

AT the time of the discovery of America by Columbus two great empires or kingdoms, existed, one in the Aztec empire in Mexico, the other the kingdom of the Incas, in Peru, South America. The vast ruins which exist in both North and South America bear undeniable evidence of the existence of a once intelligent and mighty people. At one time, living under the code of ethics taught by Christ, their life had been happy and prosperous, as the following excerpts from their history show :

And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.

And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God.

There were no robbers, nor murders, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God.

What a change had come to these people when they were discovered by Columbus fourteen hundred years later. Satan had sown tares with the wheat, the result being, as it had been many times before, that the good seed had been choked out and destroyed.

In every city and village the image of the serpent raised his head, with his forked tongue and dripping fangs exposed. Human sacrifices by the thousands were offered to these idolatrous gods of stone, to which the people bowed down in worship.

Dr. August LePlongeon in his book, *Sacred Mysteries Among the Mayas and Quiches*, says:

Chichen Itza may be termed the serpent city par excellence. The serpent may be found everywhere. It guards the stairways leading up to their temples and the doors of their homes. In a single structure recently uncovered near the City of Mexico at Xochitl the heads of 66 serpents protrude from the walls, guarding approach from all points of the compass.

Pedro de Cieza de Leon, a Spanish soldier who served under Francisco Pizarro in the conquest of Peru, kept a careful record of the things which he saw and heard. His book is one of the most prized by scholars of the histories of the conquest. He says:

All over Peru they call the devil Supay. I have been told that he has been seen by them many times. Very great is the dominion that the devil, the enemy of mankind, is allowed to have over these people. These people hold it to be certain that the devil is false and wicked, and that they obey him more from fear than love.

The condition of degradation to which devil worship had reduced the people of both Mexico and Peru is in many respects too shocking to be repeated.

The malice and jealousy of Satan toward Christ our Lord and His mission are deadly. Failing in his plan to dethrone God and deprive Christ of His birthright, cast down to earth with those

who followed after him, forever banished from the presence of the Father, he loses no opportunity to thwart the redemption of man from death, the penalty which came to us through his wicked design. He sought the destruction of the infant Christ when he prompted Herod the Great to destroy the children of Bethlehem. He sought to destroy the purpose of the mission of Christ by bribery when he offered to surrender to Him dominion over the earth on condition that the Redeemer would worship at his shrine. Failing in this he inspired the minds of men with malice and hatred, which led to the crucifixion.

The crucifixion of Christ, instead of accomplishing the purpose which Lucifer designed, had precisely the contrary effect. Endowed with power over death, Jesus on the third day rose from the tomb, thus robbing the grave of its victory and making possible redemption from the captivity in which Satan held the spirits of men.

TO realize that Satan still lives and is busily engaged in his opposition to that which is good, one needs only to pause for a moment and contemplate conditions in this troubled world of ours. Long ago he declared that with gold and silver and armies and navies he would control the world. Any person who is familiar with the words of the prophets as they are contained in the Scriptures knows that holy men in ages past, moved upon by the spirit of prophecy, foresaw and declared events which were to occur long after the age in which they lived.

From the many declarations which refer to the activities of the evil one at the time in which we live, I quote the following :

For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the evil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger, and perish :

For behold, at that day he shall rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.

And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say : All is well. . . .

And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell ; and he saith unto them : I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.

While Satan thus seeks to destroy the peace and happiness of mankind, Christ strives to draw them to Him. The same controversy which resulted in the fall of Lucifer persists until the present moment. It is the question of the redemption of man from the fall, and the penalty of death which resulted from it.

Lucifer offers redemption to man on condition that the recipient give him the honour and credit for that which he receives, and in return promises redemption regardless of the character of the applicant, the life he has lived, or the example set before others.

Christ adheres to the word of the Lord, spoken to Adam in the Garden of Eden : "This man has become one of us, knowing good and evil." He thus becomes an agent unto himself, to choose between good and evil, between right and wrong. If he has been a sinner, and repents from his evil way, and does that which is evil no more, he may be forgiven and inherit the blessings of the righteous when he stands before the bar of God, to be judged ac-

ording to his works. If he wilfully turns to wickedness and repents not he shall receive the reward of the wicked and will go away with Lucifer and his hosts into everlasting condemnation, which will be remorse of conscience that he has allowed the day of his repentance to pass.

The battle is being waged today as never before. It is the battle of right against might, of justice and mercy against greed and oppression, between armies and navies and the gold and the silver of the prince of this world and the lowly Nazarene, with the doctrine of His fraternity, equality and justice. And this time the Son of God will triumph.

The one encouraging thing to which men of faith and confidence in this day of uncertainty and trial look forward is the fact that there are certain limits beyond which the power of the evil one cannot pass. This power comes to us through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to the law of righteousness which He taught, and the example of His life.

First He promises that if any one of us who may be in doubt will go to Him He will manifest the truth to us by the power of the Holy Ghost. John the Baptist, who was the chosen agent of the Lord to administer the ordinance of baptism to Jesus Christ, said to those who accepted His teachings:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

AMONG other promises made by Christ to those whom He sent out to preach His Gospel was that in His name they should cast out devils. Upon their return they testified that this promise had been realized. They said to Jesus: "Even the devils were subject to us through your name."

This precious and indispensable gift, the Holy Ghost, comes to us by the laying on of hands by those who have authority to confer it. When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John, and they laid their hands upon them and they received the Holy Ghost. Again Paul, finding certain converts at Ephesus, asked them if they had received the Holy Ghost. They answered that they had not so much as heard that there was such a gift, that they had been baptized unto John's baptism. Paul explained to them that John baptized with water unto repentance for the remission of their sins only. They were then baptized in the name of Christ, and as Paul laid his hands upon them and conferred the Holy Ghost they spake in tongues and prophesied.

Authority to confer this precious gift is in the Church today. Every baptized member of the Church receives it, after which he is entitled to receive and forever retain a fulness of the Spirit of the Lord, and a fulness of the Spirit of the Lord leads us into all truth and provides an armour which the shafts of Satan cannot penetrate.

While the Holy Ghost may be conferred upon us, and is designed to be our guide and support, it is only retained and manifested in its fulness in our guidance and defence in proportion to the degree to which we cultivate it and listen to its promptings. We may lose it entirely through indifference or transgression,

and once deprived of its presence we are left in darkness more dense than before its reception. Cultivate it, my brethren and sisters, and it will become in reality the iron rod, which is the word of God, and will lead us back to Him.

This brief and very incomplete review is the answer of the Scriptures to one of the questions raised at the Chicago convention.

Now, brethren and sisters, I come to my concluding thought that I wish to leave with you. First I want you to understand that the influence of Lucifer is not broken, that he is here to lead us astray, that he is the same wily deceiver that he has always been; that he tells us simple truths in order to lead us into error; that he clothes himself in the livery of Christ, and pretending to speak in His name, tells us simple truths to lead us to most serious consequences.

Do not go away with the idea that Lucifer does not still live, this fallen angel who was a spirit of power. Do not forget that he was cast out from heaven. So there must be such a place. Do not forget that the pangs of hell will be the remorse of conscience which you will feel because of walking contrary to the light which you have had after having received it. Cultivate it. It is to you and to me the iron rod which is the word of God. Every man and woman that seizes upon it and holds steadfastly to it will find the way back to that place which we call heaven, a very different heaven from what these men who renounce their faith in heaven have any conception of.

God bless you, my brethren and sisters. Amen.—(Address delivered April 8th, 1934, at the 104th annual conference of the Church, held in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City, Utah).

"TO HIM THAT ENDURETH TO THE END"

BEFORE their King, and 93,000 countrymen jampacked in the huge sports bowl at Wembley, eleven stalwart lads from Lancashire earned the right to carry back with them to Manchester the coveted silver cup emblematic of England's highest football honours. Yet at half-time these men from Manchester were nil to one for their hard-playing opponents from Portsmouth. They changed threatening defeat into glorious victory—how? By a superbly brilliant finish that left 93,000 howling spectators too hoarse to speak above a whisper.

The drama of Wembley will be enacted again in the few remaining days of May—only brains, not brawn, will decide the issue. M. I. A's. of sixteen districts will launch their last attack on the provisions of Period A in the M. I. A. Building Fund competition to see which branch carries home with it the Mutual's highest award for clear thinking and wise planning—the cash prizes donated by Dr. Ray M. Russell for the best ideas on how to increase branch building funds.

With the stroke of twelve midnight on May 31st, Period A of the M.I.A. Building Fund Competition will be over. Mutual members! Get your heads together. And mark the lesson of Wembley. It was the strong finish that brought victory!—
RICHARD S. BENNETT.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1934

EDITORIAL

THE COMING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

IN our lives there are always certain things or events that are outstanding in our experience and in the influence they have on us. So it is also with peoples and with nations. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was among the most far-reaching events in human history. Its influence, small at first, subsequently became world-wide and produced remarkable results in every civilized land. It has been a belief in the resurrected and living Jesus rather than in a crucified great teacher that has so profoundly influenced the stream of human history.

But we are thinking at present, not of the resurrection or of any other event that the world now counts as great, but of an event that occurred very quietly in the state of Pennsylvania on the banks of the Susquehanna River, May 15th, 1829—105 years ago. This was the coming to earth of John the Baptist. The circumstances were about as follows:

Joseph Smith, the translator, and Oliver Cowdery, his scribe, were diligently engaged in translating the Book of Mormon from gold plates which Joseph had received from a divine messenger, the Angel Moroni. On the date above mentioned, Joseph wrote: "We went into the woods to pray and inquire of the Lord respecting baptism for the remission of sins, that we found mentioned in the translation of the plates. While we were thus employed, praying and calling upon the Lord, a messenger from heaven descended in a cloud of light, and having laid his hands upon us, he ordained us, saying: Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins." This messenger said his name was John, the same that is called John the Baptist in the New Testament.

Thus in simple language Joseph Smith describes a glorious and most significant event in modern religious history. The event, however, did not take place in the eyes of the multitude but, like the resurrection of Christ, in private. Sacred writ records the coming of heavenly messengers to individuals, not, in general, to multitudes. So it was in this instance.

But wherein lies the significance of the event related by Joseph Smith, someone may ask. Let us see. The messenger conferred upon Joseph and Oliver the Aaronic Priesthood. And he could do it, for he held it and was sent from heaven for this purpose.

Thus these young men were now unique among all the men of that day—they held the Priesthood of the living God and therefore were divinely commissioned to preach, teach and baptize in His name. They had now received what men had been without for many centuries. There had been preaching by devout men, yes, even baptizing by immersion, the correct mode of baptism. But those who had officiated were without divine authority to function, sincere, devout men though some of them may have been. Hence, their baptizing was of no avail—it lacked divine recognition.

But now all this, through God's mercy and love, was changed. The authority to act for Him was again returned to the earth. The recipients were not highly trained in schools and seminaries for the work of the ministry. Their minds had not become warped with false notions about God and His relations to His children. They were not dependent for a livelihood upon tickling men's ears with false doctrines about heaven and hell and men's relations to them. They were studious, thoughtful and prayerful young men of pure minds with obedient hearts and souls strongly yearning for the truth and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They cultivated sensitive ears, and obedient hearts in order that they might the more readily hear the Spirit promptings. So they were worthy and ready to receive the Holy Priesthood and were honoured above all men of their time by its bestowal on this auspicious day, May 15th, 1829. The restoration of the Gospel to earth had now begun. A division of the Priesthood had arrived and the messenger promised it was to remain until "the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness."

This is therefore an outstanding day in the history of God's dealings with His children. Well might every branch in the Church commemorate the anniversary in May by giving a suitable Aaronic Priesthood programme, executed by those holding this Priesthood.—M.

MOTHER'S DAY

THROUGHOUT the entire Church, Sunday, May 13th, has been set apart as Mother's Day. On this day, Latter-day Saints everywhere will give honour and deference to those who gave us life, and whose love and tender inspiration have been our strength—Our Mothers.

The British Mission Sunday School Board has prepared an excellent programme to be given in the Sunday Schools on that day. In order to make the day a complete tribute to Mothers, I suggest that the same spirit of esteem and reverence be carried into our evening meetings as well.

Motherhood, among Latter-day Saints, is hallowed and revered as sacred. To be a mother is to be engaged in the eternal work

of God, for a mother, permitting a waiting spirit to come to earth, co-operates in the holy purposes of the Lord. Latter-day Saint motherhood is raised to a divine plane.

Let us make May 13th a day never to be forgotten. It should be a happy day, a joyful tribute to our mothers whose inspiration and guidance have been such as to lead us to greater heights of Gospel love and understanding. Let Latter-day Saints, one and all, on May 13th join together in such a tribute.—JAMES H. DOUGLAS.

BRITISH MISSION Y. L. M. I. A. BOARD REORGANIZED

AT a meeting of the Mission M. I. A. boards held on April 13th under the direction of President James H. Douglas, Sister Ileen Ann Waspé was released from her position as president of



Y. L. M. I. A. BOARD OF THE BRITISH MISSION

CATHERINE L. M. HORNER, President

C. VIOLET CLAYTON, 1st Counsellor MADELINE HILL, 2nd Counsellor

FLORENCE BICKERSTAFF, Secretary

the Young Ladies' organization with a vote of thanks for her faithful work. Her transfer to the French Mission made necessary the reorganization of the Y. L. M. I. A. board.

The new board has the distinction of being the first auxiliary group board in the mission to be composed entirely of local saints. Its members are well equipped to direct the Y. L. M. I. A. activities of the future, as each has had previous executive experience in auxiliary work.

President of the board is Sister Catherine L. M. Horner. Sister Horner has been Mission Bee-Keeper, in charge of Bee-Hive work since April, 1933, and is thoroughly acquainted with the problems and programme of the M. I. A. Her counsellors, Sister C. Violet Clayton and Sister Madeline E. R. Hill, were both members of the previous board, and are well prepared for their new responsibilities of leadership. Sister Florence Bickerstaff continues as secretary of the board.

To the M. I. A. officers and teachers who will carry on the M. I. A. work in the British Mission, Sister Waspe has left the following message :

There is no work as soul-satisfying as that of missionary service, for there is no paymaster as liberal as our Father in heaven. There are many kinds of missionaries—those from the Stakes of Zion, part-time missionaries, local missionaries, etc. But to-day in the British Isles there is no class of missionaries who have greater opportunity for service than those fulfilling callings as leaders in the Mutual Improvement Associations.

The burden of responsibility which rests upon Latter-day Saints "to preach my gospel unto every creature who has not received it" (Doctrine and Covenants 112: 28) is gradually shifting from missionaries from foreign lands to the shoulders of those who are being raised up for that purpose in this part of the Lord's kingdom.

The reorganization of the Mission Board of the Y. L. M. I. A. is just another step in this divine plan. Four splendid young women—all of English birth and raised in Latter-day Saint homes—will now direct the efforts of the young women of Great Britain. In conjunction with the Y. M. M. I. A. they will strive to spread the refining influences of Mormonism so that young men and young women may develop the gifts within and be better prepared for the service of the Lord in this life and in the life to come.

The M. I. A. programme provides the tools for use in accomplishing this purpose: M Men, Gleaner, Scouting and Bee-Hive work; the activities: drama, music, speech, dance, etc., these have all been designed to meet *your* needs and the needs of the young people of your communities. Let us not be content until we have made a place for them all in our M. I. A. programme.

Branch and District officers, look to your Mission Boards for leadership; get to know them by personal contact or letter. Partake of their fine spirit, benefit by their experience and build them up through your loyal co-operation and faith in their divine calling.

The Lord has commanded us: "But verily I say unto you, teach one another according to the office wherewith I have appointed you." The Lord has appointed you to teach your fellowmen according to the inspired plan of the M. I. A. programme. Let us not hesitate to follow His commandment. Let us all join hands, Mission, District and Branch officers; lose ourselves in one big objective—to build up the kingdom of God in the British Isles.—ILEEN ANN WASPE.

THE advantage of living does not consist in the length of days, but in the right improvement of them. As many days as we pass without doing some good are so many days entirely lost.—MON-TAIGNE.

APRIL IN RETROSPECT

THE month of April was one unusually rich in the happenings and accomplishments that are heartening the saints who long to see an expansion of Gospel influence in Great Britain. Favourable publicity; friendly civic patronage of Latter-day Saint functions; intelligent application of the Church auxiliary programme to present the practical, every-day development offered by the Church; and betterment of the conditions under which we hold our meetings—these have long been recognized to be the keys to greater mission prosperity. April found them all in use.

To the sessions of the Manchester district conference came eight newspaper reporters. On the following day in nine papers, including three of the outstanding news organs in Great Britain, appeared reports of the Manchester meetings. Several of the write-ups were interesting feature articles that scored the malicious misrepresentation of the past years, and presented a faithful outline of some of the Latter-day Saint beliefs. All were eminently fair.

Guests of honour at the Gold and Green Ball held in the Merthyr branch were the Mayor and Mayoress of Merthyr. During the evening, the distinguished visitor officiated at the crowning of the Queen of the Ball. In his brief remarks prior to the ceremony he spoke of the Ball as a splendid means of promoting a spirit of friendship among the people of Merthyr, and complimenting the Church on the integrity of its purpose, he expressed his pleasure and appreciation for the work that its representatives are doing in Merthyr.

The District Drama Night in Nottingham was a happy interpretation of the possibilities and purpose of the M. I. A. drama activity project. Four branches presented one-act plays, the productions of their drama course, to an audience of saints and friends from all over the district. It was a classical demonstration of what can be done by organizations that have caught the spirit of the M. I. A. activity programme. So enthusiastic are Nottingham saints over the success of their Drama Night that they plan to make it an annual event. To them that phase of M. I. A. has become an enlivening factor in their branch organizations because they have sounded its possibilities, and found them endlessly rich.

The "Commemoration Dance" in Sheffield was a social evening planned to celebrate the raising of £100, in 1933, toward the building of a new branch chapel. But more than that, it was a tribute to the wisdom of intelligent planning and the power of co-operation. To realize such a sum is an accomplishment that takes a great amount of well-planned work. The branch building fund committee used every available means to reach the goal that they had set at the beginning of the year. Sheffield "Building Week" last December was one of the outstanding branch enterprises of the year. The Sheffield branch is indeed to be complimented.

These happenings, taken from the news columns of the *Star*, are, of course, but a few of the mission events of the past month. But they are representative of both the growing enthusiasm for the work among our own membership, and the increasing friendli-

ness of those among whom we must spread the Gospel message. And from these happenings we may gain a happy assurance that if, by our continued, unceasing efforts, each coming month be made to increasingly dwarf the richness of the past April in such Church activity, the glorious "summer" of British Mission prosperity to which we all look forward to will soon become a reality.—RICHARD S. BENNETT.

BRISTOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

LATTER-DAY SAINTS attending the Bristol District Conference held in Bristol on April 29th, brought with them a sweet spirit that was reflected abundantly in all of the three sessions. Their attitude was characterized by the fact that many travelled great distances to be in attendance. Even the investigators present declared, "A lovely spirit. We were sorry to see the meetings come to a close."

The morning session was devoted to Priesthood and Relief Society work. Following the testimonies of the branch leaders, both President James H. Douglas and Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas left a store of advice and encouragement to the gatherings which will serve to encourage activity throughout the coming six months.

Bristol Latter-day Saints will not soon forget the forceful *Millennial Star* talk of Brother Walter Shortle given during the morning session. It is to be regretted that every saint in the British Mission could not have heard Brother Shortle opprobriously say, "Why do we turn to the last page of the *Star* upon its arrival?" He expressed his hope that we would read our *Stars*, for in them was "eternal truth."

During the afternoon session, the conference theme, "The Significance of the Bible to the Mormons," was effectively presented by a series of four talks, all given by members of the district. Sister Emily Bowen introduced the theme in her talk, "What is the Bible, and its Origin." Brother R. Mavin followed with

"Why is the Bible Necessary to Our Salvation?" Brother Herbert S. Millard gave "Proof of the Bible's Authenticity," and the concluding speaker, Sister May Junner, presented "The Bible's Use in Mormonism."

Elder John D. Riggs, of the Mission Office, spoke on "Genealogy" in the afternoon session, creating a great deal of interest among the saints, which, no doubt, will result in an increase in genealogical work throughout the district.

The attention of both member and investigator was brought to focus on the evening session, where President and Sister Douglas were scheduled to speak. Before the time was turned over to the visiting authorities, President Stephen L. Dunford spoke briefly on the conference theme, expressing his love for the Bible, and how he knew all Latter-day Saints cherished the same love and reverence.

Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas in her address related some of her experiences with early Church authorities, and bore witness to their righteous lives and noble characters. She also expressed her feelings by bearing her testimony to the truth of the Gospel, explaining that her testimony had come through sincere prayer.

The last speaker, President James H. Douglas, gave an inspiring address on the miracles of the Bible as compared with the manifestations of God's power to man in our day. He pointed out how we in this day can readily accept the miracles of Biblical times because be-

fore our very eyes in the last hundred years we have seen developments that, if described in Moses's time, would have caused those people to be very dubious over their actuality. President Douglas spoke for Latter-day Saints when he expressed the belief "that if God through man can accomplish 'miracles' to-day, there is no reason to believe He could not, through man, accomplish 'miracles' in Biblical times."

Throughout the day delightful musical numbers were rendered by Sister Doris Forrester, Miss Ivy

Fackerall, Sister Edith Bryant, Bristol Branch Quartette, and Elder John D. Riggs.

Mission authorities in attendance were British Mission President James H. Douglas and Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas; and Elder John D. Riggs of the British Mission Office. District missionaries included President Stephen L. Dnmford, Charles J. Solomon, Mylan L. Healey, Fielding S. Barlow, Ira A. Newsome, and Hyrum N. Geddes.

ELDER FIELDING S. BARLOW
Clerk of Conference

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Appointment—Elder Heber I. Boden was named assistant secretary of the British Mission on April 25th. He succeeds Elder Arthur J. Morgan.

Doings in the Districts: Birmingham—Tipton Branch held its spring conference on March 18th. Services were conducted by Branch President John R. Goodman under the direction of the District authorities. Musical numbers by local members completed the conference programme.

The Tipton Branch M. I. A. sponsored a social evening recently at the Miners' Hall. A musical programme was followed by games and dancing. Brother James Lavender was in charge of the affair.

A social evening at the Handsworth Branch, April 14th, preceded the district conference. Members from the several branches in the district provided the entertainment for the evening. The programme was under the direction of Brother J. H. Makin.

A Relief Society was organized in the Wolverhampton Branch on April 19th. Sister Alice R. Moore was set apart as its president. Her counsellors are Sister Annie Westwood and Sister Edith M. Barker. Sister Betty Wilding is the Society's secretary.

Following the installation of the officers, members of the branch held a celebration social in their honour, and in honour of President Wheeler R. English. Sister Moore was in charge of the social programme and directed the serving of delicious refreshments.

London—Saints of Watford and St. Albans branches met in conference at the St. Albans branch hall on April 15th. The afternoon session was conducted by William O. Chipping, and the evening session by President William J. Jolliffe. Speakers discussed the fourth Article of Faith.

Nottingham—The Gleaner Girls furnished the entertainment and the Relief Society sisters provided the refreshments for a pleasing social evening in the Eastwood Branch on April 17th. The affair was under the direction of President Walter K. Barton, and was patronized by nearly fifty members and friends.

Sheffield—Primary children of Rawmarsh Branch presented a concert on April 7th to raise funds for their May Day festivities. Sisters Mary E. Holton and Olive Snow directed the children's performance. Nearly fifty members and friends came to enjoy the evening.

Rawmarsh saints met in conference on the 15th of April. "Fulfillment of Prophecy" was the theme of the day. Branch President Joseph T. Quimney conducted the evening services, and speakers included members and district authorities. Thirty-seven members and friends were present.

Welsh—The evening service of the Merthyr branch on Sunday, April 6th, was devoted to Primary conference. Primary children, under the direction of Sister Gladwys Davies, gave a finished demonstration of the development to be gained from the Primary programme.

The Lesser Drill Hall in Merthyr was not nearly large enough to hold all who came to the Gold and Green Ball held under the auspices



CROWNING OF THE QUEEN

of the branch M.I.A. on April 18th. Though three hundred guests were granted admission, one hundred for whom there was no room had to be turned away. The splendid attendance was an index to the excellence of the whole affair.

The outstanding feature of the evening was the ceremony of crowning Sister Ivy Forward, of the Pontypool Branch, Queen of the Ball. Surrounded by eight lovely attendants, she received her honours

from the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, who was the guest of honour. In a few remarks prior to the ceremony, the Mayor explained to the crowd that the fundamental purpose of the ball was to make friends, and stated that he knew this objective had been realized. He complimented the Mormon people on their honesty and integrity, and remarked how pleased he was with the work that the Church is doing in Merthyr.

In charge of the general arrangements of the Ball were President Frank R. Bennett and Elder Robert H. Booth. Brother Thomas Price and Sister Florence Pulman supervised the planning and serving of the refreshments. Mrs. Arthur Walmon, Miss M. Reynolds and Mr. Eddie O'Connor from among the friends of the district rendered special service to the supervising committees.

M. I. A. members of the Pontypool Branch staged their Gold and Green Ball on the 26th of April, in the Varteg Memorial Hall. Many came to enjoy the evening's wholesome recreation. Crowned as Queen of the Ball was Miss Gladwys Lewis. The chairman of the District Council officiated at the ceremony. Elder Horace L. Hulme directed the plans and arrangements for the function.

Nottingham — Eastwood saints have found cottage meetings an effective means of spreading the message of Mormonism. On April 5th, at the home of Sister Mary Hill, a small group of members and friends met to hear President Farron E. Cutler and President Walter K. Barton discuss the Book of Mormon. The same brethren, on April 18th, at the home of Sister Harriet Parker, explained the philosophy of Mormonism to an interested gathering of twenty-five.

Norwich—At a baptismal service held in the Norwich Chapel on Sunday, April 15th, Ada Elizabeth Lines and Florence Annie Vince were baptized. Local Elder Alfred E. Woodhouse performed the ordinances. The services were conducted by Elder Woodrow C. Williams.

Scottish—M. I. A. members of

the Airdrie Branch staged their Gold and Green Ball on the 11th of April. The evening was spent in songs, music and dancing. Many friends came to enjoy the festivities.

Ulster—Members of the Belfast Branch Amateur Dramatic Society, organized recently for the purpose of furnishing entertainment and material for concerts in the branch, presented their first concert on the night of March 29th at the branch meeting hall. All arrangements were under the supervision of Brother Joseph Ditty, president of the Society. The programme consisted of a one-act play, several dance numbers, several songs, and

a group of selections by the North Ulster Accordion Band. Many came to enjoy the three hours' performance.

On Easter morning the Belfast Branch Sunday School presented a beautiful Easter programme, under the direction of first councillor William Bellshaw. Musical numbers were rendered by Sisters Dodds and Gillan, and President De Hart and Elder Smoot.

M Men of the Belfast Branch, on Easter Monday, sponsored a hike over the Cave hill. Returning to the branch hall in the evening, they were served tea, and spent the rest of the evening playing games.

TO MY MOTHER

GRACIOUS, gallant, tender, true—
Those are things I love in you.
Laughing, loving, calm and kind,
My ideal in you I find.

Peace you carry in your heart,
And you use it to impart
Strength to others, till it seems
You bring courage, hope, and dreams.

Mem'ries of you are a shrine
Burning in this heart of mine
Till its gleaming, golden light
Guides me safely through the night.

And at last 'tis this I pray
Striving, yearning, day by day;
Somehow, somewhere, may I be
Nearer your nobility.

CONSTANCE QUAYLE CANNON.

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